

CLAIMS

1. A method for combating the tracking of a mobile transceiver, comprising at the mobile transceiver:
 - 5 enabling, until a first time, the transmission of a radio packet that depends upon a first anonymous address;
 - enabling, from a second time, the transmission of a radio packet that depends upon a second anonymous address; and
 - 10 disabling, between the first time and the second time, the transmission of a radio packet that depends upon either the first anonymous address or the second anonymous address.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising: randomly generating at least a portion of the first anonymous address before enabling the transmission of a radio packet that depends upon the first anonymous address and randomly generating at least a portion of the second anonymous address before enabling the transmission of a radio packet that depends upon the second anonymous address.
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3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the step of disabling, comprises disabling between the first time and the second time, the transmission of all radio packets that depend on either the first anonymous address or the second anonymous address.
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4. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein a transmission of a radio packet depends upon an anonymous address when it includes the anonymous address.
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5. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein a transmission of a radio packet depends upon an anonymous address when it includes a synchronization word based upon the anonymous address.
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6. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein a transmission of a radio packet depends upon an anonymous address when it uses a frequency from a frequency-hopping-sequence based upon the anonymous address.
- 5 7. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein a transmission of a radio packet depends upon an anonymous address when it is a L2CAP link establishment packet.
8. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the step of disabling
10 prevents the transmission of FHS packets between the first time and the second time.
9. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the step of disabling prevents the mobile transceiver replying to an inquiry request between the
15 first time and the second time.
10. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the step of disabling prevents the mobile transceiver replying to a page request between the first time and the second time.
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11. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, further comprising transmitting, between the first time and the second time, radio packets that depend on neither the first anonymous address nor the second anonymous address.
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12. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the time duration between the first period of time and the second period of time is adjustable.
13. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein each of a plurality of
30 mobile transceiver has its own local time reference and each of the plurality of mobile transceivers mobile transceivers:

enables, until its first local time, the transmission of a radio packet that depends upon its first anonymous address;

enables, from its second local time, the transmission of a radio packet that depends upon its second anonymous address; and

- 5 disables, between its first local time and its second local time, the transmission of a radio packet that depends on either its first anonymous address or its second anonymous address.

- 10 14. A method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising randomly generating its second local time.

- 15 15. A method as claimed in claim 13 or 14, wherein the difference between its first local time and its second local time comprises a calculated minimum period and a randomly generated period.

16. A method as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 15, wherein its first local time is adjustable by varying the frequency with which its anonymous address is changed.

- 20 17. A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the frequency with which its anonymous address is changed is automatically adjustable in dependence upon any one or more of: a measure of the separation of the plurality of the mobile transceivers, a measure of the accuracy with which a mobile transceiver can be located and a measure of the speed with which a mobile
25 transceiver moves.

18. A method as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 17, wherein the period between its first local time and its second local time is adjustable.

- 30 19. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the period between its first local time and its second local time is automatically adjustable in dependence upon any one or more of: a measure of the separation of the plurality of the mobile

transceivers, a measure of the accuracy with which a mobile transceiver can be located and a measure of the speed with which a mobile transceiver moves.

- 5 20. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein a plurality of mobile transceivers are time synchronized to have a common time reference and each mobile transceiver:

enables, until a first common time, the transmission of a radio packet that depends upon its first anonymous address;

- 10 enables, from a second common time, the transmission of a radio packet that depends upon its second anonymous address; and

disables, between the first common time and the second common time, the transmission of a radio packet that depends on either its first anonymous address or its second anonymous address.

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21. A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the time period between the first common time and the second common time is adjustable.

- 20 22. A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the time period between the first common time and the second common time is automatically adjustable in dependence upon any one or more of: a measure of the separation of the plurality of the mobile transceivers, a measure of the accuracy with which a mobile transceiver can be located and a measure of the speed with which a mobile transceiver moves.

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23. A method for combating the tracking of a mobile transceiver, comprising at the mobile transceiver:

transmitting, until a first time, radio packets that depend upon a first anonymous address;

- 30 transmitting, from a second time, radio packets that depend upon a second anonymous address; and

transmitting, between the first time and the second time, radio packets that depend on neither the first anonymous address nor the second anonymous address.

- 5 **24.** A method for combating the tracking of a plurality of mobile transceivers each of which has its own local time reference, comprising, at each of the plurality of mobile transceivers:

enabling, until a first local time, the transmission of a radio packet that depends upon a locally generated first anonymous address;

- 10 enabling, from a second local time, the transmission of a radio packet that depends upon a locally generated second anonymous address; and

disabling, between the first local time and the second local time, the transmission of a radio packet that depends on either its locally generated first anonymous address or its locally generated second anonymous address.

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- 25.** A method for combating the tracking of a plurality of mobile transceivers that are time synchronized to a common time reference, comprising, at each of the plurality of mobile transceivers:

enabling, until a first common time, the transmission of a radio packet that depends upon its first anonymous address;

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enabling, from a second common time, the transmission of a radio packet that depends upon its second anonymous address; and

disabling, between the first common time and the second common time, the transmission of a radio packet that depends on either its first anonymous

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address or its second anonymous address.